Tips for using memory efficiently

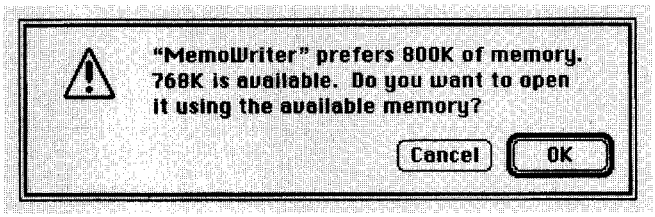
If you're having problems opening application programs or printing, these tips will help you avoid problems by using your computer's memory more efficiently.

To use System 7, your Macintosh needs at least 2 megabytes of memory. If you customarily work with several programs at a time, you may wish to install more memory.

For more information about managing your computer's memory, see the *Macintosh User's Guide.*

Use the available memory

Sometimes when you try to open a program, you'll see a message asking if you'd like to open the program using the available memory.

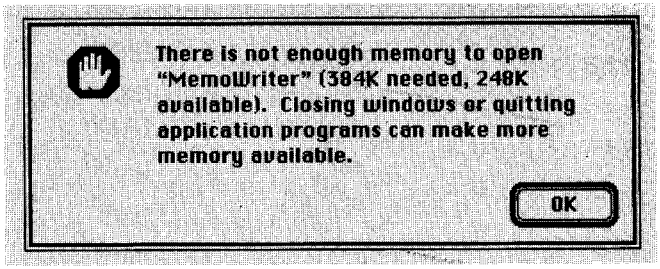


Don't worry. This message appears when the available memory is greater than the minimum memory required to open the program, but less than the recommended amount of memory.

When you see this message, click OK, and the program will open. In rare cases, you may be unable to use some features of the program, but usually you'll be able to use the program without a problem.

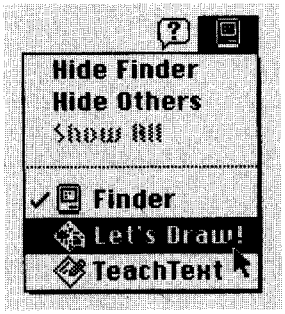
Quit some open programs

When you try to open a program you may see a message that there's not enough memory available to open the program.


There is not enough memory to open "MemoWriter" (384K needed, 248K available). Closing windows or quitting application programs can make more memory available.
OK

This message appears when the available memory is less than the minimum required to open the program.

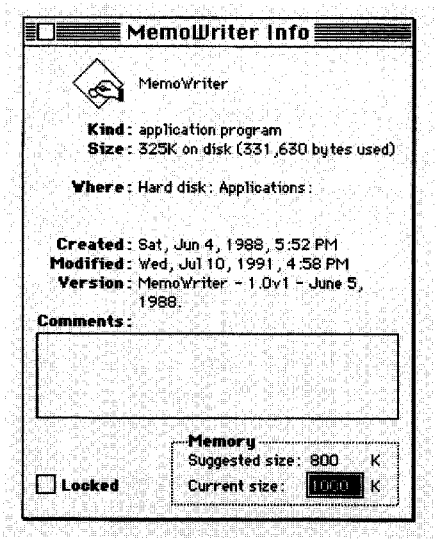
When you see the "not enough memory" message, you should quit one or more open programs. You can see which programs are open by pulling down the Application menu.



Reduce a program's memory size

You can often avoid memory problems by reducing a program's "appetite" for memory. (In rare cases, reducing a program's memory size causes performance problems, but usually you'll be able to use the program without a problem.)

To reduce a program's memory size, first quit the program. Then select the program's icon and choose Get Info from the File menu. The program's Info window appears.

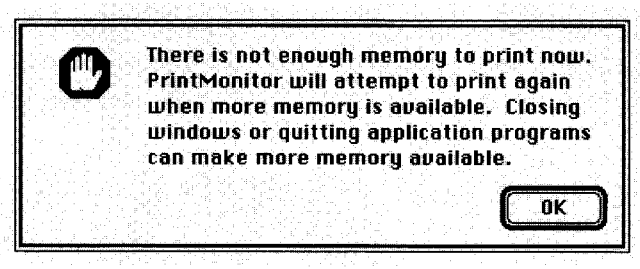


After setting the memory size, close the Info window and try opening the program again.

Quit some programs before printing

Sometimes when you try to print, you'll see the Application menu begin to blink. When this happens, you need to quit a program to make more memory available for printing.

First, choose Finder from the Application menu. You'll see the alert box shown below. Click OK to close the alert box.


There is not enough memory to print now. PrintMonitor will attempt to print again when more memory is available. Closing windows or quitting application programs can make more memory available.
OK

Next you should quit one or more open programs. To quit a program, make it active by choosing it from the Application menu, then choose Quit from the File menu.

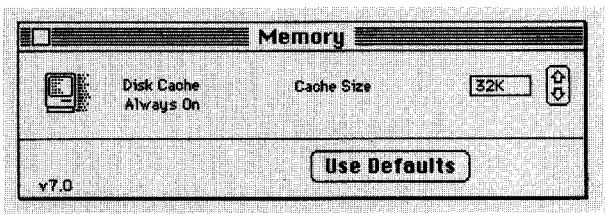
After quitting some programs, try printing again.

Set the disk cache to the smallest size

The disk cache is a portion of the computer's memory set aside to limit how often the computer must read from a disk—thus speeding the computer's performance. By reducing the size of the disk cache, you can make more memory available for application programs.

To adjust the disk cache, open the Memory control panel. (Choose Control Panels from the Apple menu, then double-click the Memory icon to open it.)

In the Memory control panel, click the down arrow repeatedly until the disk cache is the smallest possible size.



Finally, restart your computer (by choosing Restart from the Special menu.)

Drag optional system extensions out of the System Folder

System extensions (also known as *INITs*) compete with application programs for memory. (System extension icons are often displayed in the bottom-left portion of the screen when the computer is starting up.) You'll find system extensions in the Extensions folder, which is in the System Folder.

You can conserve memory by removing system extensions that you don't need. For instance, if your Macintosh is not connected to a host database, you can remove the DAL (*Data Access Language*) system extension. Likewise, if your Macintosh is not connected to a network, you can remove the AppleShare system extension.

To remove a system extension, drag its icon out of the System Folder to another location on your hard disk, then restart the computer.

Restart the computer

If you have opened and closed a number of programs, your Macintosh memory can become fragmented so that you can't open a large program. You can alleviate this problem by quitting all the programs you have open, and restarting the computer.

Turn off background printing

When background printing is turned on, you can print while using the computer for other work. If you don't need background printing, you can reduce the amount of memory required to print by turning background printing off.

To turn off background printing, choose the Chooser from the Apple menu. In the Chooser window, select a LaserWriter icon and click the button labeled "Background Printing: Off."

Turn off file sharing

When file sharing is turned on, you can share information on your computer's hard disk with other users on a network. If you are not currently using file sharing, you can conserve memory by turning file sharing off.

To turn off file sharing, open the Sharing Setup control panel. (Choose Control Panels from the Apple menu, then double-click the Sharing Setup icon to open it.)

In the File Sharing section of the Sharing Setup control panel, click Stop. A message appears asking how many minutes the computer should wait until file sharing is turned off. Type a number, then click OK.

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